



**TOP NOTCH:** Engineers inspect the e-layer at the Karnataka State Hockey Association in Bangalore on Tuesday

# Turf to be ready by Sept 15

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bangalore:** The new turf at the Karnataka State Hockey Association stadium should be ready by September 15, according to the country representative of Greenfields, Deepak Khanolkar.

The Dutch sports turf systems firm, which bagged the order from the Department of Youth Services and Sports, began the groundwork at the stadium afresh after a thorough inspection of the base. Obviously, the engineers weren't too impressed by the work carried out to level the ground after the old turf had been removed.

Work on laying the surface was delayed for a few weeks owing to certain customs regulations. However, Khanolkar said his men were efficient enough to hand over the turf by the middle of this month.

"We should be done by September 15. After that, it requires at least 15-30 days of actual play for the turf to settle. A certification team from Germany, recognised by the international hockey federation (FIH), will then give their approval after testing the turf, base, e-layer, sprinkler system. Only then

## Synthetic surfaces for all districts?

**Bangalore:** An athletic track and a mini hockey field for all the districts in Karnataka? That was what the Department of Youth Services and Sports had contemplated a few months back in its bid to modernise infrastructure in the state.

Greenfields had, in fact, met DYSS officials a few months ago with a proposal to provide sand-based surfaces measuring 40X20 ft for about Rs 40 lakh apiece and even facilitate the procurement of 100m athletic tracks for around Rs 80 lakh each. "About Rs 1.2 crore per district. That would have been the investment. We were even ready to provide free samples for one or two districts," Khanolkar said.

The DYSS had said that the two surfaces would have been ideal at its multi-purpose stadiums for athletes to train.

"The surfaces are virtually maintenance free and do not require water. Their lifespan is almost the same as the water-based turfs. But what is appealing about them is their affordability," Khanolkar said. The DYSS was seriously considering floating tenders for such turfs but somehow, in the subsequent months, the idea died a slow death. "We haven't heard from them ever since," Khanolkar said. "We were keen to bid. With the expertise we have, we were sure of providing world class stuff to the rural masses." TNN

can the turf be commissioned."

"We are confident of doing a thorough, professional job. We even went to the extent of talking to local players to get to know about the dips in the field, water logging and other problems they faced. The feedback helped us in

preparing the base well," he said.

Work on the elastic layer (e-layer) to provide the cushion that a player requires, began on Monday. The engineers plan to complete it by this week before the turf is spread and glued from next Monday.



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# New surfaces, new dawn

## Sports Minister Shekhar Kick-Starts Process With Touch Of Tradition

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bangalore:** The long-awaited process of re-laying the Sree Kanteerava Stadium athletics track as well as the Karnataka State Hockey Association turf was kick-started with a touch of tradition by Sports Minister Gulihatti D Shekhar.

Accompanied by DYSS secretary IM Vittalamurthy and Karnataka Olympic Association president K Govindaraj, Shekhar performed a bhoomi puja at the stadium, before carving up a part of the severely worn-out athletics track with a pickaxe. "The

### INFRASTRUCTURE STADIA REVAMP

work will commence immediately. The old athletics track will be removed and the surface will be levelled in the next 15 days," Shekhar said.

However, the new surface for the stadium will arrive only after the old surface has been completely removed, as production began only after orders were given. "An additional 200m practice track will come up beside the main stadium. With this new facility, the Kanteerava stadium will be on a par with other stadia of international standards," said Karnataka Athletic Association (KAA) secretary Satyanarayana.



**RINGING OUT THE OLD:** Sports Minister Gulihatti D Shekhar (right), KSHA secretary K Krishnamurthy and KSHA president RK Shetty roll up the old hockey turf after the bhoomi puja in Bangalore on Friday

Approximately 8,200 sq ft of synthetic surface will be required to re-lay the track inside the main stadium, apart from 2,200 sq ft for the practice track just outside.

Satyanarayana added that once the new surface — supplied by Conica, a subsidiary of German company BASF — and the practice track is laid, the KAA would bid for

the Asian Track and Field championships in 2011. "The laying of the new surface should be completed in three months. We must then aim to improve the stadium infrastructure in terms of change rooms and toilets. We must also look to improve stadia in Mysore and Belgaum, which are breeding grounds for top sportspersons."

The sports minister and his ensemble then visited the KSHA to perform a similar bhoomi puja in the presence of KSHA secretary K Krishnamurthy, president RK Shetty, former India goal-keeper Ashish Ballal and a host of SAI players.

"We are happy that our request, which has been pending with the government for the past five years, has finally been taken up. We are pleased that the new artificial turf will finally be laid," Krishnamurthy told reporters.

Filling in for an unusually quiet sports minister, Vittalamurthy assured KSHA officials that all steps would be taken to convince the government to set up floodlights at the stadium. "I'm excited about it. I hope to see some good domestic and international matches played here now," said KSHA president RK Shetty.

Work at the KSHA is expected to be completed by May 31 at an estimated cost of Rs 1.91 crore and the surface will be provided by Dutch-based Greenfields. However, work at the Kanteerava Stadium could take a little longer than expected as it has to get the certification from the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) and will be completed at a cost of Rs 3.65 crore, sources said.